



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

Raised Bill No. 6370

LCO No. 2649

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2004*) (a) As used in this section
2 and section 9-261 of the general statutes, as amended by this act,
3 "election day" means the day on which a regular election, as defined in
4 section 9-1 of the general statutes, is held after the State Elections
5 Enforcement Commission certifies the completion of the state-wide
6 centralized voter registration system to the General Assembly
7 pursuant to section 3 of this act.

8 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 143 of the general
9 statutes, a person who (1) is not an elector and does not have a
10 pending application for admission as an elector under said chapter
11 143, and (2) meets the eligibility requirements under subsection (a) of
12 section 9-12 of the general statutes, may apply for admission as an
13 elector on election day.

14 (c) Any such application shall be made in accordance with the
15 provisions of section 9-20 of the general statutes, provided (1) the

16 applicant shall appear in person at the office of the registrars of voters
17 on election day, (2) an applicant who is a student enrolled at an
18 institution of higher education may submit a current photo
19 identification card issued by said institution in lieu of the identification
20 required by said section 9-20, and (3) the applicant shall declare under
21 oath that the applicant is not, to the applicant's knowledge, already
22 properly admitted as an elector and has not previously voted in the
23 election. If the information that the applicant is required to provide
24 under section 9-20 of the general statutes and this section does not
25 include proof of the applicant's residential address, the applicant shall
26 also submit a United States passport, a military identification card, a
27 learner's permit or a utility bill that has the applicant's name and
28 current address and is due within thirty days after the election or, in
29 the case of a student enrolled at an institution of higher education, a
30 registration or fee statement from such institution that has the
31 applicant's name and current address. If the registrars determine that
32 an applicant is qualified, and admit the applicant as an elector, the
33 registrars shall give the applicant a notice of acceptance that indicates
34 the applicant's voting district and polling place. A notice of acceptance
35 shall be on a form designed to prevent forgery or counterfeiting, as
36 prescribed by the Secretary of the State. The registrars shall check the
37 state-wide centralized voter registration system before admitting an
38 applicant as an elector, to determine whether the applicant is an elector
39 in another municipality in the state.

40 (d) Not later than seven days after each election day, the registrars
41 of voters shall send a confirmation to the residential address of each
42 applicant who is admitted as an elector on election day under this
43 section. Such confirmation shall be sent by first-class mail with
44 instructions on the envelope that it be returned if not deliverable at the
45 address shown on the envelope. If a confirmation is returned
46 undelivered, the registrars shall refer the matter to the State Elections
47 Enforcement Commission which shall immediately conduct an
48 investigation.

49 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 9-261 of the general statutes is
50 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
51 *January 1, 2004*):

52 (a) In each primary, election or referendum, when an elector has
53 entered the polling place, [he] the elector shall (1) announce [his] the
54 elector's street address, if any, and [his] the elector's name to the
55 checkers in a tone sufficiently loud and clear as to enable all the
56 election officials present to hear the same, and (2) (A) present to the
57 checkers [his] the elector's Social Security card or any other preprinted
58 form of identification which shows [his] the elector's name and either
59 [his] the elector's address, signature or photograph, or (B) sign a
60 statement under penalty of false statement, on a form prescribed by
61 the Secretary of the State, that [he] the elector is the elector whose
62 name appears on the official checklist. Each of the checkers shall check
63 the name of such elector on the official checklist. In the case of an
64 elector who is admitted on election day under section 1 of this act, the
65 elector shall also present to the moderator the notice of acceptance
66 given to the elector under said section 1, and the moderator shall add
67 the elector's name and address to the official checklist on such day and
68 the elector shall be allowed to vote if otherwise eligible to vote. As
69 used in this section, "election day" has the same meaning as "election
70 day", as defined in section 1 of this act.

71 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2004*) Upon determining that the
72 state-wide centralized voter registration system is fully completed and
73 operational and that all municipalities in the state are participating in
74 said system, the State Elections Enforcement Commission shall certify
75 such completion to the General Assembly.

76 Sec. 4. Section 9-158a of the general statutes is repealed and the
77 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2004, and*
78 *applicable to elections held after the State Elections Enforcement Commission*
79 *makes the certification required under section 3 of this act*):

80 As used in sections 9-139c, 9-140b, 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, and

81 9-307:

82 (1) "Federal election" means any general or special election or any
83 primary held solely or in part for the purpose of selecting, nominating
84 or electing any candidate for the office of president, vice president,
85 presidential elector, member of the United States Senate or member of
86 the United States House of Representatives;

87 (2) "Former resident" means a person who was a bona fide resident
88 of a town in this state and who has [removed] moved from that town
89 to another state less than thirty days before the day of a presidential
90 election and who for that reason is unable to register to vote in the
91 election in [his] said person's present [town or] state of residence;

92 (3) "Overseas elector" means any person permitted to vote pursuant
93 to subsection (b) of section 9-158b;

94 (4) "Presidential election" means an election at which electors of
95 President and Vice-President are elected;

96 (5) "Resident" means a bona fide resident of a town in this state;

97 (6) "State" includes any of the several states, the District of
98 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin
99 Islands; and

100 (7) "United States" includes the several states, the District of
101 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin
102 Islands, but does not include American Samoa, The Canal Zone, the
103 trust territory of the Pacific Islands or any other territory or possession
104 of the United States.

105 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 9-158b of the general statutes is
106 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
107 *January 1, 2004, and applicable to elections held after the State Elections*
108 *Enforcement Commission makes the certification required under section 3 of*
109 *this act*):

110 (a) Each citizen of the United States who is at least eighteen years of
111 age, is a [resident or] former resident and [who] has not forfeited [his]
112 said citizen's electoral privileges because of a disfranchising crime,
113 may vote for presidential and vice-presidential electors, but for no
114 other offices, in the town in this state in which [he resides, or] said
115 citizen formerly resided in the manner provided in sections 9-158c to 9-
116 158m, inclusive, as amended by this act.

117 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 9-158c of the general statutes is
118 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
119 *January 1, 2004, and applicable to elections held after the State Elections*
120 *Enforcement Commission makes the certification required under section 3 of*
121 *this act*):

122 (a) Not earlier than forty-five days before the election and not later
123 than the close of the polls on election day, each [resident, or] former
124 resident who desires to vote in a presidential election under sections 9-
125 158a to 9-158m, inclusive, as amended by this act, may apply for a
126 "presidential ballot" to the municipal clerk of the town in which [he]
127 said former resident is qualified to vote on the form prescribed in
128 section 9-158d, as amended by this act. Application for a "presidential
129 ballot" may be made in person or absentee, in the manner provided for
130 applying for an absentee ballot under section 9-140, except as provided
131 in said sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive.

132 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 9-158d of the general statutes is
133 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
134 *January 1, 2004, and applicable to elections held after the State Elections*
135 *Enforcement Commission makes the certification required under section 3 of*
136 *this act*):

137 (a) The application for a presidential ballot shall be a form signed in
138 duplicate by the applicant under penalty of false statement in absentee
139 balloting, which shall provide substantially as follows:

140 To the Town Clerk of the Town of Connecticut

141 I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of false statement in
142 absentee balloting that the following statements are true:

143 1. I am a citizen of the United States.

144 2. I have not forfeited my electoral privileges because of conviction
145 of a disfranchising crime.

146 3. I was born on ..., and on the day of the next presidential election,
147 I shall be at least 18 years of age. [Check and complete 4 or 5,
148 whichever applies:]

149 [4. RESIDENT. I am a bona fide resident of the above town, to
150 which I am making this application, and I reside at ... Street. I moved
151 to said town on the ... day of ..., 20... Before becoming a resident of
152 said town, I resided at ... Street, in the Town of ... County of ..., State
153 of ...]

154 [5.] 4. FORMER RESIDENT. I am a former resident of the above
155 town, to which I am making this application, and resided at ... Street
156 therein. I moved from such town to my present town of residence on
157 the ... day of ..., 20.., being within thirty days before the date of the
158 next presidential election, and for that reason I cannot register to vote
159 in said presidential election in my present town of residence. I am now
160 a bona fide resident of the Town of ..., in the state of ..., now residing
161 at ... Street therein.

162 [6.] 5. I hereby apply for a "presidential ballot" for the election to be
163 held on ..., 20... I have not voted and will not vote otherwise than by
164 this ballot at that election. I am not eligible to vote for electors of
165 President and Vice-President [in any other town in Connecticut or] in
166 any other state.

167 [7.] 6. The said ballot is to be given to me personally mailed to me at
168 (bona fide mailing address)

169 Dated at ..., this ... day of ... 20...

170 (Signature of applicant)

171 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 9-158e of the general statutes is
172 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
173 *January 1, 2004, and applicable to elections held after the State Elections*
174 *Enforcement Commission makes the certification required under section 3 of*
175 *this act*):

176 (a) Upon receipt of an application for a presidential ballot under
177 sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, as amended by this act, the clerk,
178 if satisfied that the application is proper and that the applicant is
179 qualified to vote under said sections, shall forthwith give or mail to the
180 applicant, as the case may be, a ballot for presidential and vice-
181 presidential electors for use at the election and instructions and
182 envelopes for its return. At such time the clerks shall also mail a
183 duplicate of the application to the appropriate official of [(1) the state
184 or the town in this state in which the applicant last resided in the case
185 of an applicant who is a resident, or (2)] the state [or the town in this
186 state] in which the applicant now resides. [in the case of an applicant
187 who is a former resident.]

188 Sec. 9. Section 9-158j of the general statutes is repealed and the
189 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2004, and*
190 *applicable to elections held after the State Elections Enforcement Commission*
191 *makes the certification required under section 3 of this act*):

192 Upon receipt of an application for a "Presidential Ballot" or
193 "Overseas Ballot" the town clerk shall forthwith notify the registrars of
194 voters of the applicant's name, with a notation designating [him] the
195 applicant as a person voting for presidential and vice-presidential
196 electors or federal offices only. If the name of a presidential voter [who
197 is a former resident] appears on the registry list, the registrars shall
198 insert the letters "pf" in the margin preceding [his] the voter's name.
199 The registrars shall prepare a list of names and addresses of

200 presidential voters and overseas electors whose names do not appear
 201 on the registry list, for each voting district, which list shall accompany
 202 the check list to be used at such election in such district. The registrars
 203 shall insert the letters "pf" in the margin of such list of presidential
 204 voters preceding the name of each applicant, [who is a former
 205 resident.]

206 Sec. 10. Section 9-158k of the general statutes is repealed and the
 207 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2004, and*
 208 *applicable to elections held after the State Elections Enforcement Commission*
 209 *makes the certification required under section 3 of this act*):

210 The municipal clerk shall file each duplicate application or other
 211 official information received by [him] such clerk from another state, [or
 212 from another town in this state,] indicating that a person who formerly
 213 resided [or presently resides] in such town has made application to
 214 vote at a presidential election in such other state, [or town,] and shall
 215 maintain an alphabetical index of such information for a period of one
 216 hundred eighty days after the election. The clerk shall compare each
 217 such application or statement of information with applications made
 218 under the provisions of sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, as
 219 amended by this act, and, after the election, with the names checked
 220 off as having voted on the check list for the election, to ascertain that
 221 any such person has not voted more than once. Whenever the record
 222 indicates that any person has applied for a presidential ballot and
 223 indicated in [his] such person's application that [he] such person is
 224 applying as a former resident, and there is record evidence that such
 225 person has applied in another state [or town] as a new resident, the
 226 applicant's ballot shall not be cast in [his] such person's former town of
 227 residence.

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| This act shall take effect as follows: | |
| Section 1 | <i>January 1, 2004</i> |
| Sec. 2 | <i>January 1, 2004</i> |
| Sec. 3 | <i>January 1, 2004</i> |

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| Sec. 4 | <i>January 1, 2004, and applicable to elections held after the State Elections Enforcement Commission makes the certification required under section 3 of this act</i> |
| Sec. 5 | <i>January 1, 2004, and applicable to elections held after the State Elections Enforcement Commission makes the certification required under section 3 of this act</i> |
| Sec. 6 | <i>January 1, 2004, and applicable to elections held after the State Elections Enforcement Commission makes the certification required under section 3 of this act</i> |
| Sec. 7 | <i>January 1, 2004, and applicable to elections held after the State Elections Enforcement Commission makes the certification required under section 3 of this act</i> |
| Sec. 8 | <i>January 1, 2004, and applicable to elections held after the State Elections Enforcement Commission makes the certification required under section 3 of this act</i> |
| Sec. 9 | <i>January 1, 2004, and applicable to elections held after the State Elections Enforcement Commission makes the certification required under section 3 of this act</i> |
| Sec. 10 | <i>January 1, 2004, and applicable to elections held after the State Elections Enforcement Commission makes the certification required under section 3 of this act</i> |

Statement of Purpose:

To allow people to register to vote and cast ballots on the day of a regular state or municipal election.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]